



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

Date: June 2011

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# FACT SHEET

## Support for Increased Electoral Participation in Afghanistan

### OVERVIEW

The Support for Increased Electoral Participation in Afghanistan project strengthens the ability of political stakeholders to articulate, organize, and compete in elections, as well as to increase public awareness and oversight of the electoral process. Through this project, USAID aims to increase broad-based participation in the electoral process, including at the sub-national level.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen political parties' ability to organize for and compete in elections
- Encourage transparent and accountable elections through increased citizen participation in the electoral process, with an emphasis on outreach to remote areas of the country
- Build the capacity of Afghan organizations to monitor electoral and political processes
- Train party poll watchers and candidate polling agents to effectively participate in election day activities, and train journalists in elections coverage
- Establish an election-related website, which will enable citizens to easily monitor the elections and report potential irregularities
- Develop a national and local debate series between candidates
- Provide baseline research and information on citizen understanding with public opinion surveys and focus groups
- Educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities and those of their elected officials via television and radio broadcast programs

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Trained more than 31,000 party activists (approximately 20 percent women) on the basics of democracy, campaign planning, management, and party building
- Strengthened the ability of independent candidates, political parties, and issue-based coalitions to effectively articulate, organize, and participate in the 2009/2010 elections
- Conducted international Electoral Observation Missions for the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided 200 journalists (60 women) with skills to improve the quality of elections reporting
- Enabled six political groups to articulate platform and policy agendas effectively to voters including the Afghanistan Parliamentary Youth Caucus, the Afghanistan Parliamentary Counternarcotics Caucus, and the Afghanistan Parliamentary Business Caucus
- Expanded the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in elections and political processes through assistance to 18 independent social organizations including the Afghanistan National Youth and Social Organization, and the Movement of Afghan Sisters
- Launched "The Candidate" television series that increased the Afghan public's understanding of their election rights and responsibilities
- Broadcast Dari and Pashto public service announcements on national and local radio and television stations encouraging issue-based elections and participation in the political process
- Increased the ability of political parties and independent candidates to compete effectively in the elections through training that reached more than 200,000 individuals
- Strengthened the ability of local organizations to monitor the electoral process